

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/798,181
Reply to Office Action of April 4, 2007

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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A trailer for transporting a container, said container being provided with lifting holes at least at each corner thereof, said trailer comprising:

a generally U-shaped frame, the front thereof being provided with means for removably attaching said trailer to a tractor, said generally U-shaped frame being shaped and sized to receive said container within said frame, said frame being provided with wheels on each side of said frame;

a plurality of retractable lifting members, each retractable lifting member being positioned proximate a lifting hole of said container when said container is received within said frame, said retractable lifting members being movable between an inoperative position where said lifting members are disengaged from said lifting holes, and an operative position where said lifting members engage said lifting holes and are extendable to lift said container,

wherein said lifting members comprise a hydraulic cylinder provided with a lifting hook, said lifting hook being inwardly biased with respect to the frame, and

wherein each of said ~~lifting members~~ hydraulic cylinders are housed ~~[[in]]~~ within a corresponding substantially vertical beam fastened to said frame, and

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wherein front vertical beams are interconnected at a top portion thereof with a top cross member, and

wherein rear vertical beams are interconnected at a top portion thereof with another top cross member; and

~~wherein said lifting members consist of a hydraulic cylinder provided with a lifting hook, said lifting hook being biased inward the frame, and~~

wherein each of said vertical beams include a vertical slot having a predetermined length,

whereby when the lifting members are in said inoperative position, said hydraulic cylinders are retracted and said lifting hooks are located within the corresponding vertical beam below a bottom end of said vertical slot, and

wherein when said cylinders are extended, said lifting hooks reach said bottom end of said vertical slots and said inward biasing causes said hook hooks to deploy deploys outside of said vertical slot until contact with said lifting ~~hole~~ holes of said container, and

wherein each of said lifting hook hooks engage[[s]] said lifting hole holes and lift[[s]] said container while translating vertically along said predetermined lengths until a top portion of said container contacts a bottom portion of each of said top cross member; and

means for controlling said plurality of lifting members.

2-3. (Cancelled)

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4. (Original) A trailer according to claim 1, wherein said trailer is further provided with a rear gate.